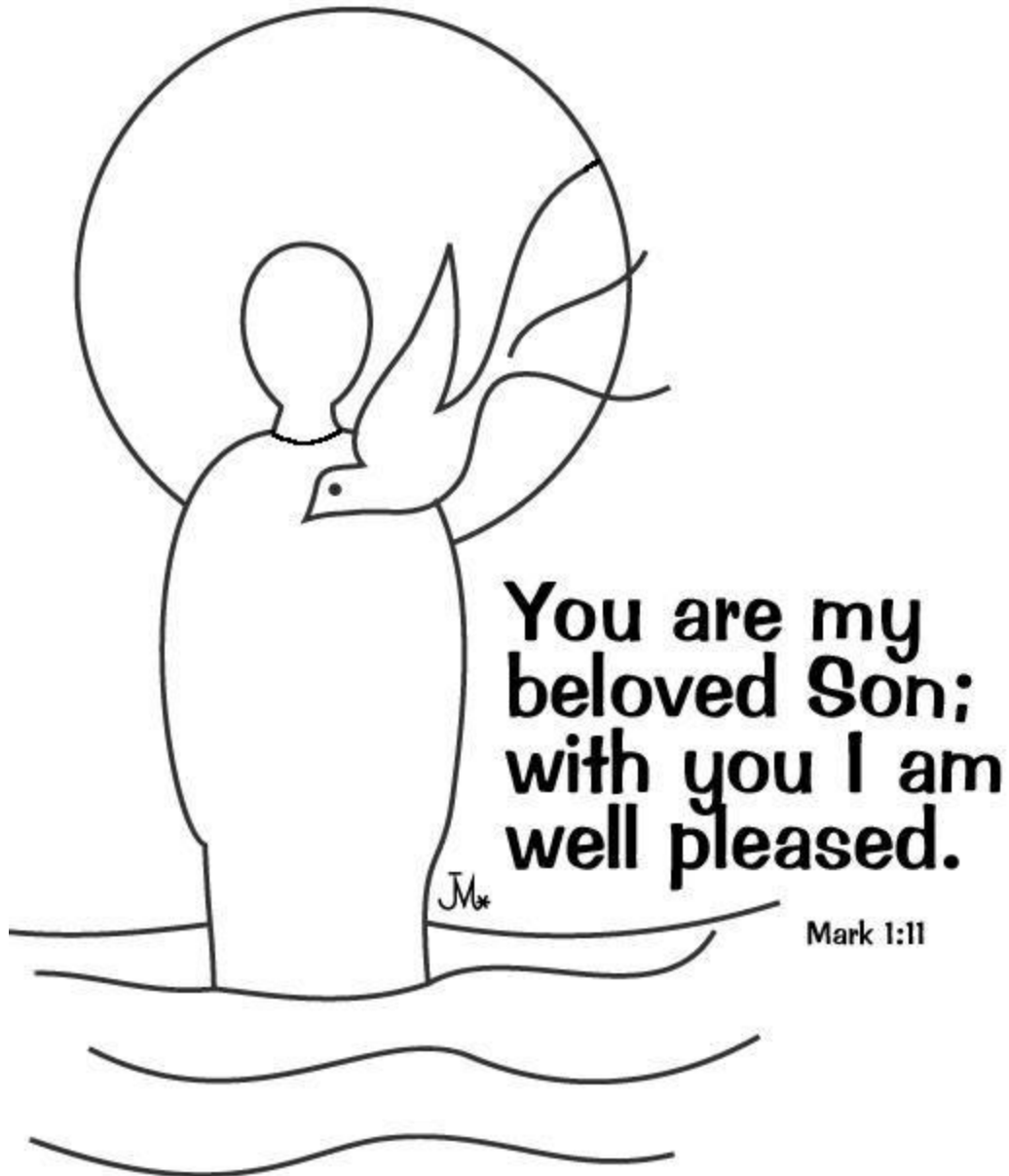


CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 10th , 2021

The Baptism of our Lord



140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661
www.christlutheransc.ca

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church: 905-685-8294, Fax 905-685-7661

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoefts (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com

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Secretary: Pat Kimpel, secretary@christlutheransc.ca

SOUL Ministry: Trinda Rensen, Gillian Leaver

Church Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC

Bulletin by email: Judy Mason, chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Prayer: Father in heaven, as at the baptism in the Jordan River You once proclaimed Jesus Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit, grant that all who are baptized in His name may faithfully keep the covenant into which they have been called, boldly confess their Saviour, and with Him be heirs of life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

10 a.m.

Musician: Mayumi Munoz

Reader: Fran Porteous

Sunday School Epiphany 1: <https://youtu.be/KJwxWUvSjuA>

Precious Moments: <https://youtu.be/k-oLAqNALtE>

Children’s Message Epiphany 1: <https://youtu.be/xwGhsUjknKI>

OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of:

Otto Bergman who passed away on Christmas Day at age 99. Private burial was conducted on December 30th by Pastor Todd, in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

ALSO to Christina Coghlan, mourning the loss of her 90 year old mother, who died January 2nd, 2021. We pray for her and David during this time of grief.

AND to Tyler Hammell on the passing of his father, Robert Hammell this past Monday. Most of you will remember Tyler from SOUL, who attended every week with Robert.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: 1 John 12: 1-10

Wed.: John 12: 35-43

Friday: Luke 12: 35-40

Tuesday: Rev. 12: 1-6

Thurs: John 12: 44-50

Saturday: Isa. 43: 1-7

The Lutheran Hour: Hear God’s Word at the click of a button on Lutheran Hour webpage or on their super convenient app! *(Just hold your “Ctrl” button down and clickbox to follow the link)*

[LISTEN NOW >>](#)

[DOWNLOAD THE APP >>](#)

LHM—all info.—www.lhmcanada.org

LISTEN TO THE LUTHERAN HOUR: tune in to **WDCX 99.5FM or 970AM.**

Sunday, January 17th: "Lost in Wonder, Love, and Praise!" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

The word of Jesus turns us out from ourselves and our problems to the faith, hope, and love that He brings. (Mark 3)

The Canadian sermons are available for listening on-line on LLL website www.lll.ca/radio-tv-and-podcasts

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC:

it's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when in-person services are not available.

1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at: http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation,
275 Lawrence Ave.,
Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3
Attn: Darryll Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church,
140 Russell Ave.
St.Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA:

Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church. Just visit:

<https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageld=donation-edit&categoryld=10972>

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ). This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE WORD

BAPTISM OF JESUS

1st Sunday after the Epiphany

January 10, 2021 + 10 AM Blended service

FIRST SONG *"The Star Proclaims the King Is Here"* *Tune: [On Jordans Bank]*

**The star proclaims the King is here; But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He Who offers Heav'nly birth seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.**

**Within the Jordan's sacred flood the Lamb of God in meekness stood,
that He, of Whom no sin was known, might cleanse His people from their own.**

**For this His glad epiphany, and thanks and praise to Jesus be,
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit evermore.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Since we have such a great High Priest Who has passed through the Heavens, Jesus Christ our Lord,

Let us with confidence draw near to God,

That we may receive mercy

And find grace in time of need.

[Brief silence for prayerful reflection]

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your loving kindness. In Your great compassion, blot out my offenses. Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me. Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth; against You have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight. Purge me from sinful stains and I shall be pure; wash me, and I will be truly clean. Hide Your face from my sins and clear away all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with Your bountiful Spirit. Make me hear of joy and gladness and give me the joy of Your saving help again. Amen.

(Based on Psalm 51)

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake, forgives you all of your sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SPOKEN KYRIE

**Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,
have mercy, hear us and give us peace. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

"A Great And Mighty Wonder"
**A great and mighty wonder:
redemption drawing near!
The Word becomes incarnate,
the prince of peace is here!
*Repeat the hymn again:
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth. Amen.'***

**4 He comes to save all nations:
let all now hear his word!
Approach and bring him worship,
the saviour and the Lord!
*Repeat the hymn again:
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth. Amen.'***

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray to the Lord;

Lord, have mercy:

We pray: Loving Father, You proclaimed Jesus Christ as Your dear Son at His Baptism in the Jordan and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. May all who are baptized into Christ remain faithful in their calling to be Your children and inherit eternal life with Him. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament: *Genesis 1: 1-5*

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth; the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep. And the Spirit of the Lord God hovered over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE SMALL CATECHISM - BAPTISM

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just water, but it is the water used according to God's command and connected with His Word.

What does Baptism give or profit?

Baptism effects forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this,
just as the words and promises of God declare.

How can water do such great things?

It is not the water that does these things, but the Word of God which is in and with the water, and faith which trusts this Word of God in the water.

For without the Word of God the water is simply water, and no baptism;

but with the Word of God it is a baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit.

The Epistle *Romans 6:1-11*

[St. Paul writes]: What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE *"To God Be The Glory Great Things He Has Done" VS 1*

**To God be the glory great things He has done,
So loved he the world that he gave up His Son.
Who yielded His life our redemption to win,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory; great things He hath done.**

The Holy Gospel *St. Mark 1: 7-11*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

[Then John the Baptizer] proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess the faith.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the + life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON SONG: *"Beneath the waters" [I will rise]*

**1. This is my revelation Christ Jesus crucified
Salvation through repentance
At the cross on which He died**

**2. Now hear my absolution
Forgiveness for my sin
And I sink beneath the waters
That Christ was buried in**

**Chorus: I will rise I will rise
As Christ was raised to life
Now in Him
Now in Him
I live**

**3. I stand a new creation
Baptised in blood and fire
No fear of condemnation
By faith I'm justified**

**Chorus: I will rise
I will rise
As Christ was raised to life
Now in Him
Now in Him
I live
I will rise
I will rise—
As Christ was raised to life
Now in Him
Now in Him
I live!**

MESSAGE Mark 1:7-11 + "Jesus' Cleansing Makes Our Dirt Disappear"

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Gracious Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise that in Your mercy You brought us to baptism, and there gave us Jesus' holiness in exchange for our sin and impurity. Thank You for our parents who brought us up in the faith and to Your Holy House for the Word and Sacrament, thank You for those other people whom You used to bring us the Gospel, for our pastors and teachers in the faith. Heavenly Father:

shine Your Light on us.

We pray for the baptized people of God, that we may hang on to Your promises in true faith, especially when we experience the wilderness of sin and evil within, and temptations and trials from outside. Strengthen us with Your Holy Spirit so that Jesus' victory may be our victory. Heavenly Father:

shine Your Light on us.

We pray for all people, that the good news of Christ will be proclaimed and heard by all, and that many will believe and be baptized. To this end, send and support pastors, missionaries, teachers, and lay people able to give truthful and loving witness to Christ. Heavenly Father:

shine Your Light on us.

Have mercy on those in need, those who are struggling because of stress, COVID 19, violence and break-down, those who are suffering from harmful behaviour and hurting relationships. Heal, restore, and renew by Your Word and our witness. Heavenly Father:

shine Your Light on us.

We pray for the sick, those who are disabled, those in hospital, those facing death. Show them the light of the gospel, provide helpers and carers and medical resources, and heal both body and soul. Be with those among us who are sick or recovering from surgery, and in particular (*insert names*), and others whom we name in our hearts... (*brief silence*)...Heavenly Father:

shine Your Light on us.

Heavenly Father, you have shown us your love and salvation in the baptism of Your Son. Accept these our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

Let us all bless the Lord

Praise God. Alleluia!

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord upon you with favour, + and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

"All Who Believe & Are Baptized"

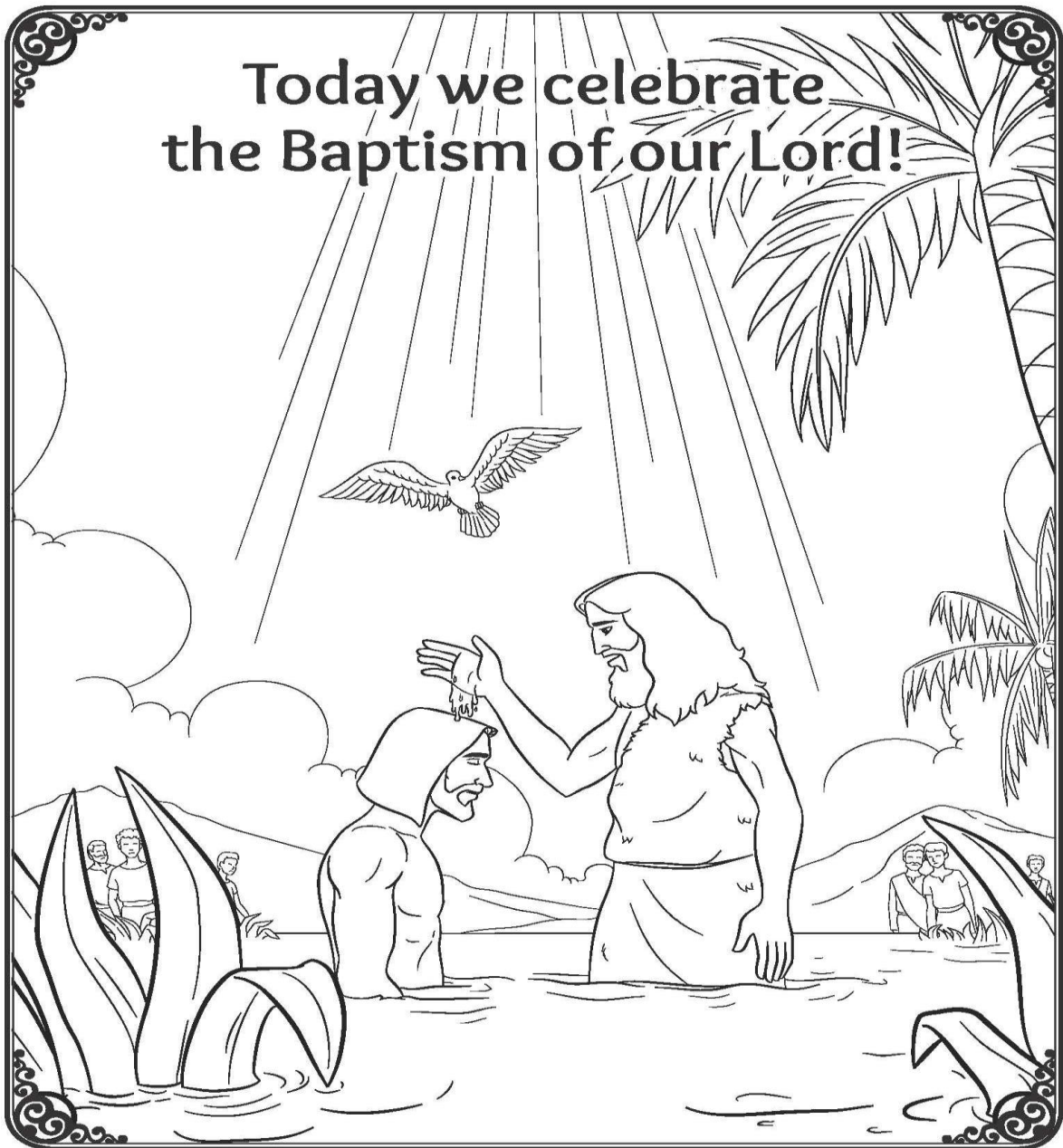
**"All who believe and are baptized
Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ,
They are a new creation.
Through Christ's redemption they shall stand
Among the glorious, heav'nly band
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.**

**With one accord, O God, we pray:
Grant us Your Holy Spirit.
Help us in our infirmity
Through Jesus' blood and merit.
Grant us to grow in grace each day
That by this sacrament we may
Eternal life inherit.**

Welcome and Announcements

Let us depart in peace and joy, serving our Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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REV. TODD HOFFS

BAPTISM OF JESUS

Scripture: Mark 1: 7-11

[John the Baptizer] proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.⁸ I have baptized you with^[a] water; but he will baptize you with^[b] the Holy Spirit."⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;^[c] with you I am well pleased."

I can still recall a conversation with my friends back in high school about church things...

like going to Sunday school, getting baptized, even confirmation class.

A few of those friends had been confirmed with me about 5 years earlier.

These friends didn't attend church very often.

Soon this talk evolved into commenting on worshipping God.

"I don't HAVE to go to church to worship God" one friend said...

"I can take a nice walk on a Sunday morning and worship God by enjoying nature..."

Sure, you can.

God created nature.

He's in charge of the world.

He is present in the world where He chooses.

I agreed.

You don't HAVE to be in church to worship God.

But when you're NOT in church, and Sunday rolls around...

ARE you truly enjoying God in nature walks?

I never got an answer.

But before we get too frustrated at these kinds of attitudes,
we must acknowledge that—

what goes on in here [in the church building]

is not always connected with what goes on out there [in the everyday world].

If pastors and churches do not connect the dots

between faith received here and faith lived out there,

We run the risk of leaving people open to finding their own path.

Now for myself and those confirmed with me,

Our pastor's curriculum was anchored in Baptism

and what that identity in Christ means for who we are—

Still, a worship life is often not viewed as crucial for feeding the life of faith

and so a nature walk seems much more palatable.

A great misunderstanding divide stood in between God and His people Israel.

For 400 years not one prophet uttered a single syllable from God.

400 years.

Nothing. Silence from God.

After Malachi spoke, then, nothing.

We call that the inter-testamental period,

where Greece & then Rome ruled God's people with a heavy forceful hand.

Sure, the people worshiped in the synagogue and eventually, the restored temple.

They read the Old Testament stories,

Recited the Passover history, the commandments...
But as the prophetic silence grew, so grew the divide...
As furiously as the religious leaders made sure the culture of the faith didn't die,
Nonetheless, the children of Israel grew depressed and alone.
So when John does appear,
Coming from the wilderness,
It's a place many anticipate to see change
and at the same time a place many do not want the LAST PROPHET to emerge from.
Wilderness brings memories of trauma, wandering,
loss, sickness, death, starvation, capture by enemies....
Normally we don't think to return to places of heartache to focus on repentance,
But this is where God has placed John.
John grabs the peoples' attention—
Look at the wilderness.
Look at the past.
NOT to conjure up guilty emotions,
Not to open up old wounds,
But to return to the God of suffering,
To see the help God gives in times of tribulation,
To trust deeply in the God of compassion,
Who will turn them all around
and set them in the direction of Jesus, the Messiah,
The very ONE WHO can take all their troubles [primarily SINS] away.
When sin is paid for, the skies the limit on what God's new life can do!
This is refreshingly new and unique.
It's also off putting.
As new things can often be.
John looks strange with odd clothing and a domineering voice.
He's hyper focused on who's coming after him.
He knows who he is.
He's more lowly than a servant who'd untie the leather strap of the Messiah's sandal.
Those kind of servants untied shoes and washed feet.
He's even lower than that!
How transparent, how humble, a breath of fresh air.
How unexpected.
While the God of nature and the ruler of the universe is at work here,
Jesus comes as the Light of the world, brighter than the Sun.
A light shines into this dark wilderness,

and the darkness of sin and Satan cannot overcome it.
John's been busy baptizing with water to get everyone ready.
The people have been dropping their sins off in the river Jordan;
polluting the water, making it filthy and impure.
And that's okay.
Not just because God told them,
but because Jesus isn't going into the water to get clean.
Jesus enters the water to get dirty;
He gets polluted.
He doesn't need saving,
but rather comes **TO** save.
Jesus' baptism doesn't heal Him; it infects Him.
He who knew no sin now bathes in sin.
He who travels down from Nazareth,
a place where nothing good comes from
Now makes all things good
By beginning a ministry with washing up into our human mess.
His Baptism is so important!
Happening with John after all those hidden years working in the carpenter's shop.
There's no crowds yet, no miracles, no disciples...
nothing but what looked ordinary and so un-God-like..
But this seemingly irrelevant meeting in the wilderness
Is truly one of the most important events in salvation history.
Because at the Jordan River He publicly accepts his mission to save our souls.
What God had planned out from the very beginning,
What had been left unsaid for 400 years...
NOW comes to life!
The blue sky and clouds above are ripped open,
Light shines,
God speaks!
His booming creative word is re-created as Jesus stands in the world He helped create!
God looks down and the descending Holy Spirit like a dove is seen!
And looking down, God says—
"This is my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with him."
This is Jesus' identity.
He is loved.
He is Perfect.
And He does all of our dirty work.

He's not just Joseph's son, not just the carpenter from Nazareth,
but the very Son of God.

The Saviour of all nations.

And right here,

Jesus' baptism intersects with our own baptism.

At our baptism God names US his beloved sons and daughters.

We have a new identity as we are washed into Christ.

The Spirit anoints our lives with the faith flame and

Jesus' cross marks us as His siblings

That's our real identity.

As much as you may think God isn't like you,

God is so very much like you.

Now, He is, in fact – in flesh and blood and bone– one of you.

That He is with you, on your side, by your side, even dwelling within:

This truth connects us to heaven

But also transports us into the arena of everyday life

protected even as we are projected forward.

Jesus' baptism means that He takes on all you've got:

your sin, your death, your hell, your satanic harasser, your stresses, your troubles, your doubts–

He absorbs it all like a sponge,

and He takes it all the way to His cross, poured out like water to death.

And when He dies on that cross, for you, and for the world,

Once again, God is silent.

While the earth shakes and the sky turns dark,

God says not a word

But rather HE rips open the temple curtain from top to bottom.

The very curtain that still kept people far from God,

That's all gone.

Access to God in direct.

No more silence.

The read and spoken Word keeps speaking

All that Jesus IS and DOES is ours.

We receive HIS life

We receive HIS death

We receive His resurrection.

He lowered Himself and in doing so raises all of us up.

Now you know who Jesus truly is.

Now you see what He is like.
For He has made Himself like you.
He has met you in the water.
And so, what does God think of you?
He thinks the world of you.
He loves you
He welcomes you
He's blessed all our baptismal waters from then on.
When His spoken Word met the water of the font in your Baptism,
when you got baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection,
when the Holy Spirit descended and the Father spoke, He told you:
"You are My beloved son; You are my beloved daughter,
with you I am well pleased."
In Baptism we see and hear and know Who God is!
Christ is now the Light by which you see.
Christ is now the Life by which you live.
Christ is the Word we hear and speak and eat and drink.
Christ is with you.
And so, you may joyfully and confidently join Him in the fray now.
You are called to be there with Him, out in front.
You have no choice, really.
He has bound Himself to you.
Where He goes, you go.
And you speak.
You share the faith.
Your life preaches a living sermon.
You are Christ to the community.
You are that bridge from the church to the world.
While a God in nature seems warm and friendly, and even holy,
The God in the church comes always in compassion,
Promising forgiveness, nourishment, peace, joy and protection.
We pray that the light of Christ that rests in us shine so lovely, so brightly,
That everyone who encounters this just wants to know how to get it.
For you're showing them what He is like;
and what He thinks of them;
because of what He has done for them.
God is well pleased.
Amen.